

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7-13, and 19-22 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 16-18 and 23-26 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are independent claims.

Amendment After Final

Initially, Applicants wish to note that presently allowed claims 1, 4, 7-13 and 19-22 have not been amended. Therefore, cancellation of claims 16-18 and 23-26 will render the present rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) moot, and put the subject application in condition for allowance. (Applicants note that a divisional application directed to the subject matter of claims 16-18 and 23-26 will be filed before the close of prosecution of the subject application)

Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to cancel claims 16-18 and 23-26, as cancelling these claims will render the present application allowable. Further discussion of the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) will be omitted herein for the sake of brevity, as the rejections have been rendered moot through the cancellation of the presently rejected claims.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the pending art grounds of rejections, and present favorable allowance of each of claims 1, 4, 7-13, and 19-22 in the present application.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1, 4, 7-13, and 19-22 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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